

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
BOARD OF MAYOR & ALDERMEN
REGULAR SESSION
MARCH 12, 2024**

Vice Mayor Connie Ball opened the public hearing for consideration of Resolution #2024-06 Annex Certain Territory Upon Written Consent of Owner West Highway 25/70. There was no one to comment.

Vice Mayor Ball closed the public hearing.

March 12, 2024

The City of Newport Board of Mayor and Aldermen met in the Newport City Hall Council Chambers on Tuesday, March 12, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. in Regular Session.

Rev. Alvin Watts led the invocation. Alderman Mike Hansel led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

The following officials were present: Vice Mayor Connie Ball, Alderman Mike Hansel, Alderwoman Louanna Ottinger, Alderman Randy Ragan, Alderman Steve Smith, City Attorney Terry Hurst, and City Administrator James Finchum.

The following officials were not present: Mayor Roland Dykes, III.

Vice Mayor Ball declared a Quorum.

Minutes

February 13, 2024 Regular Session

Motion by Alderman Ragan and second by Alderwoman Ottinger, for minutes of the February 13, 2024 Regular Session to be approved as submitted.

All Ayes- Vice Mayor Ball declared the motion passed and approved.

February 21, 2024 Special Called Meeting

Motion by Alderman Hansel and second by Alderman Smith, for minutes of the February 21, 2024 Special Called Meeting to be approved as submitted.

All Ayes- Vice Mayor Ball declared the motion passed and approved.

Communications from the City Administrator

City Administrator James Finchum reported the first litter pickup of the season will be Saturday, March 23rd. Mr. Finchum then informed the Board of an activities study on Parks & Recreation for both city and county performed by the State. Mr. Finchum said he may have this on the April agenda for the funding and will be split between the city and the county.

Appointment of Boards, Commissions & Committees

Cocke County Municipal Solid Waste Planning Region Board – Louanna Ottinger’s Term

Discussion of Cocke County Municipal Solid Waste Planning Region Board – Louanna Ottinger’s Term. This term is appointed by the mayor. Alderwoman Ottinger has agreed to serve another term on the Cocke County Municipal Solid Waste Planning Region Board.

There was no action taken.

New Business

Resolution #2024-06 Annex Certain Territory Upon Written Consent of Owner West Highway 25/70

Consideration of Resolution #2024-06 Annex Certain Territory Upon Written Consent of Owner West Highway 25/70. Community Development Director Gary Carver explained this is an owner requesting to be annexed into the city. The Planning Commission approved this request at their February 27th meeting.

Motion by Alderwoman Ottinger and second by Alderman Ragan, to approve Resolution #2024-06 Annex Certain Territory Upon Written Consent of Owner West Highway 25/70.

Roll Call

- Alderman Hansel AYE
- Alderwoman Ottinger AYE
- Alderman Ragan AYE
- Alderman Smith AYE
- Vice Mayor Ball AYE

All Ayes- Vice Mayor Ball declared the motion passed and approved.

Audit Contract Between Brown Jake & McDaniel and the City of Newport

Consideration of Audit Contract Between Brown Jake & McDaniel and the City of Newport.

Motion by Alderman Smith and second by Alderman Ragan, to approve Audit Contract Between Brown Jake & McDaniel and the City of Newport.

All Ayes- Vice Mayor Ball declared the motion passed and approved.

Authorization for the Newport Fire Department to Apply for Tennessee Community Fire Protection Program

Consideration of Authorization for the Newport Fire Department to Apply for Tennessee Community Fire Protection Program. This is a federal grant in the amount of \$17,500 obtained by the Tennessee Department of Forestry. It is 100% reimbursed. The monies will be used to purchase fire prevention materials, equipment, training classes, and provide public outreach through Tennessee Fire Adapted Communities.

Motion by Alderwoman Ottinger and second by Alderman Ragan, to approve Authorization for the Newport Fire Department to Apply for Tennessee Community Fire Protection Program

All Ayes- Vice Mayor Ball declared the motion passed and approved.

Request to Access Accumulated Sick Time for a Fire Department Employee

Consideration of Request to Access Accumulated Sick Time for a Fire Department Employee. The request to use the employees third bucket of sick time due to health issues.

Motion by Alderman Ragan and second by Alderman Smith, to approve Authorization for the Newport Fire Department to Apply for Tennessee Community Fire Protection Program.

All Ayes- Vice Mayor Ball declared the motion passed and approved.

Adding General Orders for Part-time Employee to the Newport Fire Department

Consideration of Adding General Orders for Part-time Employee to the Newport Fire Department. The new guidelines for the firefighters wishing to work on a fill-in or part-time basis with the Newport Fire Department.

Motion by Alderman Smith and second by Alderman Hansel, to approve Adding General Orders for Part-time Employee to the Newport Fire Department.

All Ayes- Vice Mayor Ball declared the motion passed and approved.

Adding General Orders for Part-time Employee to the Newport Police Department

Consideration of Adding General Orders for Part-time Employee to the Newport Police Department. The general orders that will be implemented is for the part-time police officers.

Motion by Alderman Hansel and second by Alderman Ragan, to approve Adding General Orders for Part-time Employee to the Newport Police Department.

All Ayes- Vice Mayor Ball declared the motion passed and approved.

Bids, Purchases and Expenses

Consideration of Bids for Purchase of Equipment for the Newport Police Department for the Violent Crime Intervention Funding Grant. Chief of Police Scott lamb submitted bids for the VCIF grant to obtain Level III tactical shields for patrol officers at the cost of \$75,840, Stinger spike strips for \$15,288, duty weapons for \$21,671.82 and medical bags with supplies for \$16,573.20 for the total price for all equipment \$129,411.

Motion by Alderwoman Ottinger and second by Alderman Hansel, to approve bids submitted to purchase equipment for the Newport Police Department for the Violent Crime Intervention Funding Grant for Level III tactical shields for patrol officers at the cost of \$75,840, Stinger spike strips for \$15,288, duty weapons for \$21,671.82 and medical bags with supplies for \$16,573.20 for the total price for all equipment \$129,411.

Roll Call

Alderman Hansel	AYE
Alderwoman Ottinger	AYE
Alderman Ragan	AYE
Alderman Smith	AYE
Vice Mayor Ball	AYE

All Ayes- Vice Mayor Ball declared the motion passed and approved.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board of Mayor & Alderman, **motion was made by Alderwoman Ottinger and second by Alderman Ragan** adjourned the meeting.

Mayor Roland Dykes, III

James Finchum, City Administrator

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